

An Essay  
on  
Cholera

Respectfully Submitted  
to the Faculty of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
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By the term Cholera is generally understood a disease characterised by nausea, griping, purging & vomiting where location is confined principally to the Alimentary Canal.

Various appellations have been given this disease viz. Cholera Morbus, Sorous Cholera, Cholera Asphyxia Asiatica, & Malignant Asiatic Cholera. It is generally understood that the various names used, denote several distinct diseases; but we shall endeavour to shew that they are only modifications of one disease. That stage of the disease termed Cholera Morbus which is so prevalent during our summer months is only a modification of the original disease already mentioned and like that it has one great original cause for its existence.

Let us first consider the disease usually termed Cholera Morbus. This generally commences with a sudden feeling of nausea, griping, purging & vomiting; in some cases it is accom-  
—aried

by coldness of the extremities, hurried respiration, & excessive thirst, a feeling of cramps in the legs & arms, spasmodic contractions of the Abdominal Muscles, hollow & sunken eyes, weak pulse, thin watery & fetid evacuations, and a gruish or dark bilious vomiting, with a great feeling of weight & oppression at the Epigastric region.

The cause of this stage of the disease we will defer and pass on to consider the Second ~~stage~~, Cholera Asphyxia, Asiatica or Malignant Asiatic Cholera.

This stage of the disease is the most and most malignant form in which it can be manifest; hence its name, ~~proven~~ fatal in many cases before Medical aid can be procured. Like the lion of the forest it has long looked upon with dread as the King of diseases, baffling the skill of the entire Medical faculty, carrying desolation, destruction and horror wherever it goes. Thanks unto the great Father, the day has arrived that man has the predominant. The lion of the forest has been tamed & made subject to his control; and that too through the powerful intellect & instrumentality

— tality

of our worthy teacher who first wielded  
the scorpion (placed in his hands) to  
establish the great land of cure. "Similia  
Similibus Curantur" now so successfull  
being practised throughout the world.  
Much has been said & written upon this  
disease in regard to its origin, its true  
cause, and its contagious character.

All allow that when this disease prevails  
there is something floating in the atmosphere  
which seems to deteriorate that atmosphere  
usually termed Cholera Miasm, but like  
it is or from whence it comes they do not  
attempt to explain.

We will now pass to consider some of the  
symptoms which characterise this disease  
in its most malignant form.

In the first stages of this disease, the patient  
is suddenly attacked (while in general  
health) with great prostration of bodily power  
languor & oppression at the precordial region.  
his limbs give way beneath him, he is prostrate.  
His countenance changes & assumes a death  
like appearance; his eyes sink in, his face  
turns blue and icy cold, and also the rest  
of his body, giving to the hand that sensa-

which you feel on touching the body  
of one already dead; And in some  
cases respiration ceases, the pulse are  
not perceptible, and then seems to be  
a suspension of all the vital forces of  
the body; and you see stamped upon the  
features an expression of dread & anxiety  
He has no pain, no vomiting, no purging,  
but if able to speak and more he will let  
his hand upon the breast and raise a  
heavy moan, and express thin feelings in  
a language which I have often heard  
used "Oh. My heart is leaving me"

Let us turn over attention for a while to  
the cause of this disease and see first if we  
can ascertain what Cholera is, and why it  
pervades at one season more than another,  
and why certain localities are visited  
by its ravages and others <sup>are</sup> except from its  
influence, also why some become victims  
to the destroyer and others go unharmed.  
It is allowed by all that the atmosphere  
which we breathe is composed of different  
Gasses, viz Nitrogen & Oxygen, with a small  
portion of Carbon & Hydrogen. It is necessary  
for the sustenance and support of animal  
life, that these gasses exist in certain propor-

Some being supporters of that life while  
others are destructive to it

This being the true condition of a poor  
and healthy atmosphere, may we not  
expect that during those dry hot sultry  
seasons the atmosphere becomes adulterated  
with those Gasses which are not sup-  
porters of life, that there is then a deficiency  
of Oxygen in the atmosphere, consequently  
a great want of Electricity which con-  
dition absorbs the Electricity from our Sys-  
tems and renders us negative and suscep-  
tible to the effects of the adulterated atm-  
osphere we breathe; which has a surplus  
of those Gasses which are injurious to life  
which has been generated from the low marshy  
places, stagnant ~~full~~ water & decayed  
animal and vegetable matter. It is at those  
seasons when we find the atmosphere in this  
condition that Cholera & other epidemics  
prevail, and why? because, as we have already  
said, there is a great want of Electricity &  
the atmosphere, a deficiency of Oxygen  
and a surplus of those Gasses which are  
so destructive to life. Our systems become  
diseased and in a negative state from  
the

the effects of the excessive heat and the  
inhallation of the impure air we breathe  
thus are we rendered susceptible to the  
inspiration or infection of the Cholera  
Miasm (so called) which is floating in  
the Atmosphere, which is nothing more  
nor less than the several poisonous Gass  
which compose the adulterated Atmosphere  
at those seasons. By Carbon Hydrogen & Nitrogen  
which are the component parts of that well  
known poisonous and destructive, Hydrocyanic  
or Prussic Acid Gas.

This may be considered  
the true condition of the Atmosphere at the  
Seasons when this disease prevails. As has  
already been said we do not have a suffi-  
cient quantity of Oxygen present to support life  
or to counteract the bad effects arising from  
the impure air, and our systems have become  
negligent, and susceptible to the effects of  
poisonous Gass which we are daily and hourly  
absorbing from the atmosphere, which is retai-  
ned in our systems; and the effect is the  
same that it would be to inhale the same  
quantity daily from the bottle of the Apothecary.  
We may inhale a small quantity with im-  
munity, but if we hourly add that small quan-  
tity

before the effect of the previous dose has passed from the system, we soon begin to feel its serious effects, and if continued, perfect prostration, and a suspension of all the vital forces or functions of the body is the result. This is the true condition in Cholera, produced by the constant inhalation of the poison gas absorbed a sufficient quantity from the atmosphere to produce the effects already described, termed Cholera.

We have endeavored to shed to the clear and investigating mind, what Cholera is, also why it prevails at certain seasons. We will now pass to consider why certain locations, <sup>& perhaps</sup> become the recipients of this disease while others are excepted from its influence. It is a well known fact that those noxious gasses already considered, have a great affinity for the low marshy districts, stagnant waters, damp ill ventilated & crowded dwellings; and whenever you will find & pass decayed animal or vegetable matter filth or impurity of any description thru you will find the best breeds for these gasses; Hence its prevalence among the lower class of the community, who are confined to the marshy

filthy streets & damp ill ventilated dwellings  
who also are the class who use more of the  
kind of food, both vegetable & animal  
which generates the said Gass in abundance  
and they being constantly surrounded  
by these impurities are ever under its  
influence

The reason why one person is more  
liable to an attack than another is because  
his System is in a debilitated state; per-  
haps from the debilitated state of the diges-  
tive system, torpid Liver; which condition  
is always favourable to the infection of  
the Miasm. Because owing to the weakness  
of the digestive organs the food remains  
within the Stomach undigested until  
decomposition actually takes place, when  
you will find the said Gases generated in  
abundance, and if the person has eaten  
of unwholesome food or unripe fruit, you will  
see a sufficiency of Gass generated from  
that food, which will produce the effects of  
the System which we often see termed Cholera  
we think that we can safely say that in  
all cases of the disease, nine out of ten  
are those, whose digestive systems are in a  
nearly debilitated state, or those who are

addicted to the use of intoxicating drinks.  
Such at least has been our experience  
during the prevalence of Cholera last summer  
(1854) in this City, in the treatment of Sixty  
-five cases (from July 15<sup>th</sup> to Aug 20<sup>th</sup>) Every case  
was of the kind mentioned.

In regard to its contagious character  
suffice it to say, that according to the  
common acceptation of the term, we con-  
sider it of a non-contagious character.  
And it can only be considered infectious  
as a person's system is rendered susceptible  
to its influence as already described.

To the clear mind we think we have fully  
shown what Cholera is and its true cause  
also why certain locations and persons become  
the recipients of the malady while others are  
exempt from it; also that instead of many  
diseases there exists but one; Not as is generally  
understood that Cholera does not exist until  
the patient is either in a cramp or  
collapse state, but that it is Cholera from  
the first sensation of nausea or pain.  
The many appellations used should rarely  
be applied in the different stages to denote  
the severity or malignancy and the location of

the disease. There is but one great original cause for the existence of the disease in its several forms, For instance a person may inhale and absorb a sufficient quantity of the said gas to produce that irritation upon the Alimentary Canal termed Cholera or he may absorb a still greater quantity and produce a still more formidable group of symptoms. Nausea, griping, purging and vomiting, which is termed Cholera Morbus, and if the patient is of a weak, debilitated system, the quantity already absorbed together with the addition of unwholesome food or unripe fruit, a sufficient quantity of gas will be generated from their decomposition to produce a still more group of symptoms already described under the head of Asiatic Cholera. Cases of this kind I have often met with during the last Cholera season.

This gas does not effect all systems alike. I have always found that where persons of a weak digestive system are attacked, perfect prostration has been the result. The vital forces or functions being entirely suspended; neither pulse nor respiration being perceptible; the body being in a cold and collapsed state.

In those who are addicted to the use of intoxicating drinks, with strong nervous Systems and Muscular Power, the disease assumes a different form, more of a spasmodic character, every muscle in the body being cramped to an astonishing extent, than also being present more local heat, with considerable cerebral disturbance.

We think we have clearly shewn that there is one great cause which produces the disease in question; that the many effects are only modifications of that disease produced upon different Systems and if we admit the fact may we not be justified in saying, that a remedy which will remove the symptoms or effects in the worst & most malignant form, will remove them in all stages I am aware that specific remedies to many of my Homoeopathic brethren are either repugnant, and the idea is very unpopular, therefore I will only state as far as my experience will take me.

At the commencement of the last Cholera season I selected my remedies (none of

had I ever known of being used in the disease, with the intention of subduing and overcomeing the disease in all cases. I used them in the first case I had, which was a very severe one, that of Collospse and one of the most horror stricken cases I have ever witnessed, and to my utter astonishment of all present, in less than one hour the patient was in a profuse perspiration & quiet sleep. And out of danger. In a few hours I had another case much like the first, with more nervous & muscular power, consequently more of a spasmodic character, also mixed delirium. I here used the same remedies with the same success, and in all subsequent cases I used the same remedies with all confidence; in all stages of the disease, from its earliest and most incipient stages to those of Cramp, Collospse and Rictus not distinguishing and in no case did they ever fail of producing the desired results; even in the most malignant form. Therefore I feel justified in advocating specific Homoeopathy, and if more attention were paid to the study of the true cause of disease instead

looking so much after the effects, I  
am confident our Matine Medicina  
would not be filled up with imaginary  
symptoms as it now is of a thousand and  
one remedies such as the Sachetis, Apis, Lead  
which serves only as stumbling blocks to  
the young student in Medicine

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Henry. Pidde, Thayer